

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota was founded with hard work, perseverance, dedication to duty, and concern for one's fellow man; and,

Whereas, In answer to a challenge by the 3M Corporation to match \$2 million with state funds and a challenge by the McKnight Foundation to match \$3 million with private funds, the South Dakota legislature voted unanimously to establish the South Dakota Community Foundation and fund it with \$2 million from the state's Future Fund; and,

Whereas, Bernie Christenson was a banker and state legislator at the time the foundation was created, and he left both positions to graciously accept Governor George S. Mickelson's request to serve as the founding executive director of the foundation; and,

Whereas, Bernie successfully led the South Dakota Community Foundation in surpassing the McKnight Foundation challenge to raise \$3 million in private funds within 12 months by doing so in 11 months; and,

Whereas, In the 17 years that Bernie has been at the helm, he has been identified throughout the state as a leader in the philanthropic community, having grown the foundation to over \$35 million in funds; and,

Whereas, Bernie is well respected for his work in economic development, and is credited with coining the phrase "Community Savings Accounts" that will forever provide financial support to communities across the state; and,

Whereas, During Bernie's tenure with the foundation, he assisted in providing over \$14.5 million in grants to non-profits and charities across South Dakota, and the cultivation of relationships has led to over \$60 million being committed to the South Dakota Community Foundation through planned gifts; and,

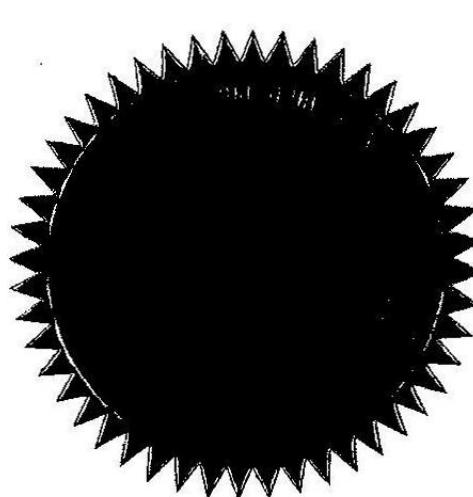
Whereas, On October 26, 2003, Bernie Christenson will be honored and recognized by his colleagues, friends and family as a valued leader, mentor, and friend as he retires from the position of executive director of the South Dakota Community Foundation:

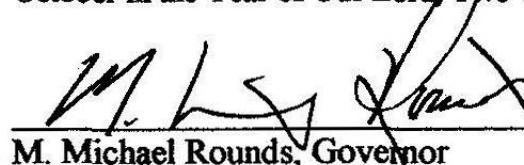
Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 26, 2003, as

BERNIE CHRISTENSON DAY

in South Dakota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of October in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Three.




M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:



Chris Nelson, Secretary of State